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ments which make children's homes happy, and not on the principle of rendering a prison dreadful. Every step towards home-life in them is something gained. Every piece of prison machinery or apparatus is so much lost.

Miss Carpenter's book on "Reformatory Schools," published in 1851, is a very valuable collection of information. She continues the subject, very thoroughly and practically, in this volume.

- 3.—*Elements of Character.* By MARY G. CHANDLER. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1854. 16mo. pp. 234.

THIS is a book full of good sense, carefully digested, and so arranged as to be indeed available as a book of education,—as very few books of education are. The difficulty with such works is, in general, that the people who need them most will not read them. That difficulty is met here as far as it well can be; for though there is no pretence at gilding a pill, and no Miss Grace Goodchild is introduced whose character is formed by the process recommended, the essays are eminently readable, and the training which the author pleads for is practically illustrated, and made so clear as to give at every corner hints for every-day life.

- 4.—*Field-Book for Railroad Engineers.* By JOHN B. HENCK, A. M., Civil Engineer. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. xvi., 243.

WE hardly know how, in a few words, to do justice to the merits of this little book. If Mr. Henck had given us a purely scientific treatise, we should feel that he was going over ground already well surveyed by some of his predecessors, and the only credit to be claimed would be that which is due to the introduction of new matter, or better methods of investigation. If, on the other hand, he had followed the usual routine of field-books, he would have done injustice to himself and to his profession. The rapid multiplication of railroads has of late years drawn many engineers into the field without any previous preparation. By the aid of a field-book, such persons are enabled mechanically to perform the requisite processes, and with this they are content, without stopping to inquire into the reasons for what they are doing, or to investigate the formulæ which they use. As a consequence, the field-

book becomes a mere barren collection of rules, in which we search in vain for anything like reasoning or investigation of principles.

Mr. Henck, in the volume before us, has made a most judicious combination of theory and practice. The scientific treatise and the field-book are united without detriment to either. Every rule is accompanied by a rigid mathematical demonstration, and the resulting formula is so conspicuously placed, as at once to attract the eye in the field.

There is much original matter, of which we would particularly specify the investigation of the radius of curvature of parabolic arcs, and a new method of calculating earth-work. The great variety of useful tables embodied in the work would alone render it a valuable pocket-book for the engineer; and the form, type, and general arrangement are unexceptionable.

5.—*The Epistle to the Romans, in Greek and English. With an Analysis and Exegetical Commentary.* By SAMUEL H. TURNER, D.D., Professor of Biblical Literature and Interpretation in the Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and of Hebrew in Columbia College. New York: Stanford & Swords. 1853. 16mo. pp. xvi., 234.

MOST commentators criticize St. Paul's Epistles, not as letters addressed and adapted to the then current needs of those to whom they were inscribed, but as general treatises on dogmatic theology, designed for universal edification. That this latter purpose entered into the Divine counsels, we have no doubt; but it is the most surely evolved, when we first seek to understand each Epistle in its temporary and personal bearings, and then deduce by a process of generalization the great underlying principles which apply always and everywhere. Now in this regard Dr. Turner does not fully satisfy us. He forgets the unquestionably post-Pauline origin of some of the questions and controversies now rife, and occasionally interprets a text as if Paul had written for Anglo-Saxons of the nineteenth century, not for Romans and Romanized Jews of the first. We regret also that he did not accompany his Commentary by a new translation. But, with only these abatements, we are prepared to pronounce this work inferior in merit to no Pauline commentary with which we are conversant. It contains what the critical scholar most of all needs,—a complete discussion of every mooted question as to the meaning of words and the interpretation of sentences. There is throughout an unostentatious affluence of sound first-hand learning.